

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29, and 30 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of these claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Please note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

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1. (Twice Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:  
reception means for receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals;  
output means for outputting the images received by said reception means in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images; and  
notification means for acquiring and notifying of a state of distribution of the images by said reception means while said reception means is receiving the images.

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2. (Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the state of distribution is information relating to a frame rate of an image being received by said reception means.

3. (Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said notification means changes the display unit in accordance with the state of distribution by said reception means.

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4. (Unamended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said notification means changes information displayed on the display unit in accordance with a frame rate of an image received by said reception means.

5. (Unamended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the change in information displayed on the display unit is a change in a state of display of an icon indicating a corresponding one of the plurality of communication terminals.

6. (Unamended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said notification means does not perform notification when the frame rate is high, and performs notification when the frame rate is reduced.

7. (Unamended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said notification means comprises one of flashing of an icon, display of character information, and display of numerals.

8. (Twice Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:  
receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals;  
outputting the received images in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images; and

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acquiring and notifying of a state of distribution of the images in  
said receiving step while performing said receiving step.

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9. (Amended) A communication method according to Claim 8,  
wherein the state of distribution is information relating to a frame rate of an image being  
received.

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10. (Amended) A communication method according to Claim 8,  
wherein said acquiring and notifying step changes the display unit in accordance with the  
state of distribution.

11. (Unamended) A communication method according to Claim 8,  
wherein said acquiring and notifying step changes information displayed on the display  
unit in accordance with a frame rate of a received image.

12. (Unamended) A communication method according to Claim 10,  
wherein the change in information displayed on the display unit is a change in a state of  
display of an icon indicating a corresponding one of the plurality of communication  
terminals.

13. (Unamended) A communication method according to Claim 11, wherein the notification is not performed when the frame rate is high, and is performed when the frame rate is reduced.

14. (Unamended) A communication method according to Claim 8, wherein the notification comprises one of flashing of an icon, display of character information, and display of numerals.

15. (Twice Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

- reception means for receiving a part or all of images generated from image generation units of a plurality of corresponding communication terminals by switching the images;
- output means for outputting the images received by said reception means in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images;
- assigning means for assigning an arbitrary image from among the multiple images;
- control means for controlling a state of outputting of the image assigned by said assigning means; and
- notification means for acquiring and notifying of a state of distribution of the images by said reception means while said reception means is receiving the images.

16. (Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 15,  
wherein the state of distribution is information relating to a frame rate of an image being  
received by said reception means.

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17. (Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 15,  
wherein said notification means changes the display unit in accordance with the state of  
distribution by said reception means.

18. (Unamended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 15,  
wherein said notification means changes information displayed on the display unit in  
accordance with a frame rate of an image received by said reception means.

19. (Unamended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 17,  
wherein the change in information displayed on the display unit is a change in a state of  
display of an icon indicating a corresponding one of the plurality of communication  
terminals.

20. (Unamended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 18,  
wherein said notification means does not perform notification when the frame rate is high,  
and performs notification when the frame rate is reduced.

21. (Unamended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said notification means comprises one of flashing of an icon, display of character information, and display of numerals.

22. (Twice Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:

C8 receiving a part or all of images generated from image generation units of a plurality of corresponding communication terminals by switching the images; outputting the received images in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images; assigning an arbitrary image from among the multiple images; controlling a state of outputting of the assigned image; and acquiring and notifying of a state of distribution of the images in said receiving step while performing said reception step.

C9 23. (Amended) A communication method according to Claim 22, wherein the state of distribution is information relating to a frame rate of an image being received.

C10 24. (Amended) A communication method according Claim 22, wherein said acquiring and notifying step changes the display unit in accordance with the state of distribution.

25. (Unamended) A communication method according to Claim 22, wherein said acquiring and notifying step changes information displayed on the display unit in accordance with a frame rate of a received image.

26. (Unamended) A communication method according to Claim 24, wherein the change in information displayed on the display unit is a change in a state of display of an icon indicating a corresponding one of the plurality of communication terminals.

27. (Unamended) A communication method according to Claim 25, wherein the notification is not performed when the frame rate is high, and is performed when the frame rate is reduced.

28. (Unamended) A communication method according to Claim 22, wherein the notification comprises one of flashing of an icon, display of character information, and display of numerals.

CU 29. (Twice Amended) A storage medium storing a program, said program comprising:  
reception process code for receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals;  
output process code for outputting the received images in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images; and

notification process code for acquiring and notifying of a state of distribution of the images by said reception process code while said reception process code is receiving the images.

30. (Twice Amended) A storage medium storing a program, said program comprising:

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reception process code for receiving a part or all of images generated from image generation units of a plurality of corresponding communication terminals by switching the images;

an output process code for outputting the received images in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images;

an assigning process code for assigning an arbitrary image from among the multiple images;

control process code of controlling a state for outputting of the assigned image; and

notification process code for acquiring and notifying of a state of distribution of the images by said reception process code while said reception process code is receiving the images.

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#### REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.